

2B GRAMMAR the past: habitual events and specific incidents

- a Read the story and put the verbs in the correct form. There is sometimes more than one answer.



I started school at the age of four at my local primary. I ¹ 'd been looking forward (look forward) to starting school for some time because I ² _____ (not have) any siblings, so I thought it was going to be the perfect opportunity to make new friends and have fun. On the first day, I ³ _____ (play) with my new classmates when the teacher ⁴ _____ (interrupt) us and asked us to pay attention. We all stopped what we had been doing and she introduced us to the class pet – Hammy the Hamster. He was the pet I ⁵ _____ always _____ (want) but ⁶ _____ never _____ (allow) to have.

The teacher told us that each child – in strict alphabetical order – could take Hammy home with them for one weekend and then bring him back the following Monday.

I could hardly wait for it to be my weekend. I ⁷ _____ (get) to school very early every day and I ⁸ _____ (feed) and play with him. I ⁹ _____ (not want) to let the other children near him because I wanted Hammy to be my new best friend!

After three weeks, my weekend finally arrived. My mum hadn't been too keen on having a hamster in the house but I'd been very persuasive – I ¹⁰ _____ (be) very persistent as a child – and finally she agreed. I was so happy.

Saturday morning was a beautiful, sunny day so I thought Hammy would appreciate a morning walk in the garden. However, as I ¹¹ _____ (take) him out of his cage, he ¹² _____ (bite) me, I ¹³ _____ (drop) him, and Hammy ran away!

I ¹⁴ _____ (not be) a child who ¹⁵ _____ (cry) very often, but on that occasion I spent all weekend crying and looking for Hammy. Sadly, though, Hammy ¹⁶ _____ (go) forever and I never saw him again.

The worst was yet to come, however. On Monday I had to go back to school with an empty cage. As I ¹⁷ _____ (explain) to the teacher what ¹⁸ _____ (happen), I realized that the rest of the class were looking at me with hatred in their eyes; after all, I had lost the adored class pet! Nobody ¹⁹ _____ (speak) to me for at least a week and I remember it being the worst feeling I ²⁰ _____ (experience) in the four short years of my life.

activation

- b Think of a time in your childhood when you did something wrong. Write a paragraph describing the incident.